

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending in the Application.

Claims 1-21 stand rejected.

The Examiner has continued to reject the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Maleck et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,611,912). Applicants have attempted to contact the Examiner to discuss this matter over the phone, but were unable to make contact with the Examiner.

The Examiner has asserted that this application is to be rejected under § 102(e) based on the law previous to November 29, 2000. Applicants respectfully assert that it does not matter which version of § 102(e) is used, *Maleck* is still not prior art. Both the previous and current versions of § 102(e) specifically state that the prior art patent is to another. *Maleck* is not a patent by another, since the three inventors, Maleck, Boswell, Barnes, are the exact same inventors as in the present application.

Furthermore, *Maleck* is not proper prior art under any of the other § 102 paragraphs. As a result, *Maleck* is not prior art to the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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